



# HEARD ACROSS MONTANA

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## MacDonald Pass Tower Extension Completed

By E. Wing Spooner [espooner@mt.gov](mailto:espooner@mt.gov)

On Sat., July 12, the MacDonald Pass radio site received a new 50-foot tower extension, making the tower 150 feet in height and allowing for all three of Lewis and Clark County's trunking antennas to be moved higher up the tower.

That action not only removes interference problems at the site, but also improves coverage for this trunking site.



Tower Extension at MacDonald Pass Communications Site

## Montana Law Enforcement Summit

By Pete Mohan [pmohan@mt.gov](mailto:pmohan@mt.gov)

The first ever Montana Law Enforcement Summit took place this week from July 20 through 24 at the Billings Convention Center. Association leaders and support staff did an outstanding job of bringing together representatives of Montana's law enforcement community, including members of the Montana Association of Chiefs of Police, the Montana Police Protective Association, and the Montana Sheriffs and Peace Officers Association.

The law enforcement presentations were of the highest caliber and speakers were extremely well

prepared, which will assist conference participants in being able to bring the latest information back to their jurisdictions.

Chris Christensen, Public Safety Services Bureau (PSSB) Chief, presented a briefing on the status of the Interoperability Montana Project. Ryan Olson, 9-1-1 Program, gave a presentation on the status of basic, enhanced, and next generation 9-1-1. Pete Mohan, PSSB, gave a short briefing on the 1033 military surplus program as well as the Commercial Equipment Direct Assistance Program (CEDAP) that provides awards through the Responder Knowledge Base.

Many thanks go to conference organizers for providing the opportunity to participate in an excellent summit.

## Kyrgyzstan Representatives Learn about Interoperability

By E. Wing Spooner [espooner@mt.gov](mailto:espooner@mt.gov)

With similar agriculture and mountainous topography, the Montana National Guard was paired with the Republic of Kyrgyzstan in the mid-1990s as part of a State Partnership Program that linked National Guard units from around the U.S. with newly independent countries from the former Soviet Union. The goal of the program is to show emerging countries how state National Guards function in a democracy. Since then several cultural, medical, law enforcement and educational exchanges have taken place.

One such exchange took place this week when Col. Urmatbek Aliskarov and Col. Jambulbek Jumagulov, who work in the Kyrgyz Ministry of Emergency Situations, visited Montana to learn about radio interoperability among other topics. On Tuesday, July 22, Roger Smith, Montana Highway Patrol (MHP), presented the history of the Interoperability Montana (IM) Project and gave a technical overview of the trunked radio system and the microwave backbone. Each word was translated into Russian by Tanya Lukenbill, an interpreter who lives in Helena. Roger also explained IM partnerships with the Montana National Guard and the U.S. Air Force.

Roger emphasized that Concept Demonstration Project # 1 in Lewis and Clark County originally anticipated serving 15 agencies; now it serves 50. Likewise, instead of 400 radio users on the system, more than 2,000 use it. He explained that the second Concept Demonstration Project along the



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Northern Tier and Montana's more than 550-mile international border with Canada is expected to come on line this fall. Approximately 50 communications sites have been built throughout Montana since the IM Project began. The IM Project is always looking for new partners and new sources of funding.

After the presentation, the delegation received a tour of the MHP dispatch center, where they saw dispatchers on the phone with callers, and observed various computer, recording and mapping technologies.

According to Capt. Galen ("Mac") MacAllister, the State Partnership Program Director for the Montana National Guard, the Kyrgyz visitors are familiarizing themselves with U.S. emergency management agencies, with the intent of exchanging best practices. This type of exchange provides opportunities for the Kyrgyz delegates to share information and ideas with their counterparts as well as to learn from them.



Fr. left to right: Aliskarov, Smith, Lukenbill and Jumagulov



Fr. left to right: Aliskarov, Smith, Jumagulov and MacAllister

Covering an area about the size of South Dakota, Kyrgyzstan is a nation of 4.5 million people in central Asia, bordered by China and three other

former Soviet republics. Effective emergency response capabilities are vital for Kyrgyzstan, which is classified as the most seismically dangerous territory in central Asia. More than 3000 earthquakes are registered annually, and devastating seismic catastrophes occur every 5-10 years. In addition, landslides, mudslides, floods and avalanches damage vital infrastructure and bring about casualties every year.

It's exciting that Montana experts, such as Roger Smith, can work with the Montana National Guard to help Kyrgyzstan enhance its disaster preparedness and emergency response.

## Upcoming Meetings

### July 28

IM Technical Committee (IMTC) Meeting  
Helena • 9:00 am • State Capitol • Room 172

### August 4

IM Finance Committee  
Helena • 9:00 am - Noon  
Anderson & ZurMuehlen • 828 Great Northern Blvd.

### August 4

IM Governance Committee  
Helena • Noon - 5:00 pm  
DOC Annex Conf. Rm.; Behind 515 N. Sanders St.

### August 5

IM Project Directors (IMPD) Meeting  
Helena • 9:00 am - 3:00 pm • State Capitol

### August 6

South Central Consortium (SCMIC)  
Big Timber • 10:00 am  
City County Library, 4th Street and McLeod

### August 7

Northern Tier (NTIP)  
Havre • 9:00 am • Havre, 9:00 am  
Great Northern Inn; 1345 1st St.

### August 13

Central Montana Consortium (CMICC)  
Lewistown • 10:00 am  
City Complex, 305 W Watson

### August 20

Eastern Tier Consortium (ETIC)  
Glendive • 10:00 am  
Law Enforcement Center; 440 Colorado Blvd.

### August 21

I-15/90 Corridor Consortium  
Butte • 10:00 am  
Chamber of Commerce; 1000 George St.

### August 25

Mobile Data Terminal (MDT) Consortium  
Bozeman • 10:00 am  
City Center Motel, 507 W Main St.

### August 26

Big Sky 11 Consortium  
Roundup • 10:00 am • Location to be Announced